

Licensed Family & Residential Certificate Child Care Information on Inspections for Safety Hazards

5-16-07

When inspecting your home for compliance with those rules which address safety hazards, your Licensing Specialist will differentiate between two different areas of your home:

- Areas considered **inaccessible** to children. This includes:
 - Any room or closet with a lock on the door, or a child safety device over the doorknob while children are in care. (This includes closets inside a room if the room has a lock on the door or a child safety device over the doorknob).
 - Rooms or areas of the home blocked off from children with a child safety gate while children are in care.
 - Cupboards or drawers that have a child safety lock on them while children are in care.
 - Cupboards that are higher than kitchen counter height.
 - If a **non-mobile** infant naps in a crib or playpen in a bedroom, and the bedroom has a lock or child safety device on the doorknob, the room will be considered inaccessible to children, as long as the **only** child care activity that takes place in the room is the napping of non-mobile infants in cribs or playpens.
- Areas considered **accessible** to children. This includes:
 - Rooms, closets, or areas of the home that are **not** behind a locked door, a door with a child safety device on the doorknob, or a child safety gate while children are in care.
 - Cupboards and drawers that are kitchen counter height or lower that are in an accessible room and do **not** have a child safety lock on them while children are in care.

Inspecting Inaccessible Areas of Your Home

In each area/room of your home that is **inaccessible** to children, the Licensing Specialist will look into the area to see if there are children in the area/room, or obvious illegal items in plain sight, such as drug paraphernalia.

Inspecting Accessible Areas of Your Home

In each **accessible** area/room of your home, the Licensing Specialist will look for the following dangerous items which are prohibited by rule:

- **Tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances, and sexually explicit materials.**
See rule # R430-90-11(4) & R430-50-9(5) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Toys** accessible to **infants or toddlers** that are smaller than 1-1/4" in diameter. This does **not** mean you cannot store such toys in accessible cupboards or drawers within a child's reach. It means the Licensing Specialist will look to see if there are any toys this small on the floor and/or within reach of any infants and toddlers in care the day the inspection is done. This rule only specifies **toys**, not other small items such as paper clips, barrettes, etc.
See rule # R430-90-15(2) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Firearms.** Firearms and other weapons must be stored separately from ammunition and must be in a locked cabinet or area while children are in care, unless the carrier has a concealed weapon permit. This includes BB guns, but not toy guns. See rule # R430-90-15(4) & R430-50-10(11)
- **Uncovered electrical outlets.** See rule # R430-90-15(5) & R430-50-10(8)
- **Toxic or hazardous chemicals.** The specific toxic or hazardous chemicals your Licensing Specialist will look for are: insecticides; pesticides; gasoline or other flammable liquids such as kerosene, paint thinner, motor oil, or turpentine; bleach; household cleaners; nail polish remover; and rubbing alcohol. These items must be inaccessible to children, and must be in their original container or in a container that is labeled with the contents.
See rule # R430-100-90-15(6) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Fireplaces, open-face heaters, or space heaters, when in use.** See rule # R430-90-15(7) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Sharp objects.** This includes sharp knives, adult scissors, razors, nails and screws, broken glass, toys with broken edges that could cut or puncture skin, and tools such as screwdrivers. This does **not** include butter knives, sharp knives in sinks or dishwashers, or sharp knives in butcher blocks pushed to the back of the kitchen counter.
See rule # R430-90-15(10) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Medication.** This includes prescription and over-the-counter medications. It does **not** include diaper cream, sunscreen, baby powder, or baby lotion. See rule # R430-90-15(10) & R430-50-10(7)

- **Empty plastic bags** large enough for a child's head to fit in them. See rule # R430-90-15(10) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Matches and cigarette lighters.** See rule # R430-90-15(10) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Hot water** that exceeds the scalding point of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. See rule # R430-90-15(11), R430-50-10(9)
- **Strings and cords long enough to encircle a child's neck.** Examples include strings or cords found on pull toys, window blinds, or drapery cords. This does **not** include electrical cords or extension cords if they are plugged into the wall or in a drawer. This rule does **not** apply if you **only** care for school age children (children age 5 and older). See rule # R430-90-15(12) & R430-50-10(7)
- In bathrooms accessible to children, in **medicine cabinets** that do **not** have a child safety lock on them, Licensing Specialists will look for medications, razors, and the previously listed toxic chemicals. They will **not** look for personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorant, cosmetics, lotion, nail polish, or hair care products.
- Your Licensing Specialist will **not** look in purses, diaper bags, or backpacks. However, s/he will ask you where medications are stored, and if they are stored in purses, diaper bags, or backpacks that are within children's reach this is a rule violation. In this case, the Licensing Specialist will ask you to either put the purse, bag, or backpack out of children's reach, or take the medication out of it and put the medication out of children's reach.

Inspecting Garages

If your garage is accessible to children, in addition to the list of prohibited items above, your Licensing Specialist will also look for the following items, which cannot be stored within children's reach (kitchen counter height or lower) in your garage:

- **Lawn products.** See rule # R430-90-15(6) & R430-50-10(7)
- **Sharp tools, such as handsaws or screwdrivers.** This does **not** include lawnmowers, or power tools that do not have sharp edges when they are not in use. See rule # R430-90-15(10) & R430-50-10(7)

Inspecting Outdoor Yards

Your Licensing Specialist will inspect for the following prohibited items in outdoor areas that children have access to. See rule # R430-90-15(1), R430-90-15(9), R430-50-10(3) & R430-50-10(6)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfenced water hazards • Raised decks or balconies without railings • Open basement stairwells with no railing • The following toxic or hazardous chemicals: lawn products; insecticides; pesticides; gasoline or other flammable liquids such as kerosene, paint thinner, motor oil, and turpentine; bleach; household cleaners; nail polish remover; and rubbing alcohol. These items must be inaccessible to children, and must be in their original container or in a container that is labeled with the contents. • Sharp objects. This includes any sharp tool (both motorized tools and hand tools), machine, or farm equipment that has an exposed sharp edge or blade or a point that could puncture skin; boards with exposed nail ends sticking out; broken glass; barbed wire; and broken toys that have sharp or pointed edges • Window wells, fire pits, or other holes more than 24 inches deep without a cover • Asbestos • Refrigerators or freezers a child could accidentally get shut inside of • Welding torches • Empty plastic bags large enough for a child's head to fit inside, including garbage, lawn, and leaf bags | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicles up on blocks • Wood with splinters • Animal waste (not including isolated bird droppings) • Exposed live electrical wire • Indoor (thin) electrical extension cords not in use • Rope, wire, or other strangulation hazards long enough to encircle a child's neck (This does not include jump ropes or ropes attached to swings.) • Hanging ropes or cords not attached to a swing • Unstably stacked wood piles • Unstable unanchored heavy equipment a child could climb on and/or pull down on themselves • Rotting garbage not in a container with a lid • Poison ivy or oak, stinging nettle, oleander, mushrooms, and toadstools • Beehives, yellow jacket or hornet nests, and red ant hills • Dead animals • Filled milk or slop buckets • Unattended running vehicles or farm equipment • Standing ladders • Playground equipment with loose, missing or broken parts, such that the equipment could fail when children play on it • Unstably stacked bales of hay or straw |
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